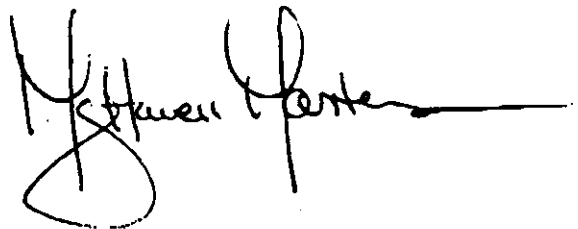


Mary-Howell R. Martens

My husband, Klaas, and I farm 1100 acres of certified organic crops in the Finger Lakes region of New York. Our principal crops are soybeans, corn, small grains, processing vegetables, and red kidney beans. We also own an organic feed business, selling mixed animal feeds to organic dairy and poultry farmers in the Northeast. I am very active in the New York chapter of Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA), a major international organic certifying agency, serving as the Chapter Administrator and on the certification committee. Additionally, I teach Plant Structure and Function at Finger Lakes Community College and write frequently for Acres USA, a leading sustainable agriculture publication, on various topics relating to organic agriculture.

I received my BS from North Carolina State University in 1980 and my MS from Cornell University in Plant Breeding/Vegetable Crops in 1982. I worked for 10 years in the grape breeding program at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. This position included both work in a traditional plant breeding program for the improvement of wine and table grapes and in a modern biotechnology program for grape cultivar characterization and improvement through PCR analysis and particle gun technology.

From these diverse backgrounds, I hope to bring to this committee a perspective that can see the value of all views on agricultural biotechnology, recognizing that all individuals involved - researchers, industry, farmers, especially organic farmers, and consumers - have legitimate concerns and rights which must be protected by any policy adopted.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary-Howell Martens", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.